

**Conference on Effectively Restoring Ecosystems  
22-24 August 2000, St. Louis, Missouri**

**BACKGROUND**

**Session:** Breakout 3B  
**Topic:** Endangered Species  
**Presenters:** Forester Einarsen, CECW-PC and Chester Martin, CEERDC-EL  
**Recorder:** Dorie Bollman, CEMVR  
**Objective:** To examine current policy, procedural and technical issues related to endangered species.  
**Description:** Attendees were provided with an overview of the Headquarters perspective on endangered species consultation timing issues and requirements related to endangered species for ecosystem restoration projects. More specifically, attendees were provided with an overview of threatened and endangered bat issues at Corps projects. An open discussion followed each of the two presentations.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Endangered Species Coordination  
Forester Einarsen, CECW-PC**

Throughout the Corps of Engineers field offices have difficulty receiving timely biological opinions from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. This has an effect on the completion of decision documents and execution of Project Cost Share Agreements. While it is preferable to complete Section 7 consultation prior to the completion of the EA/EIS it is not legally required. The requirements of the Endangered Species Act and NEPA are technically separate. With full public disclosure, the Corps office may proceed with the processing of the decision and NEPA documents. However, Section 7 consultation must be completed prior to execution of a PCA and construction. To minimize delays, offices need to complete adequate Biological Assessments, document the formal Section 7 steps, and elevate problems quickly. With regards to ecosystem restoration, new problems have encountered concerning threatened and endangered species and the O&M responsibilities. Protected species may not utilize the site prior to restoration. So the question is how do we ensure that the restoration project will be maintained so that the benefits for which it was designed can be derived if protected species are attracted to the restored site. A new policy and supporting regulation was issued in 1999. The development of the Safe Harbor Policy assures that the project can proceed with an agreed upon baseline for future conditions. The formal agreement is between the Non-Federal sponsor and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Corps role is one of technical assistance. More information can be found at the USFWS endangered species homepage....<http://endangered.fws.gov>.

Forester presented the subject matter via a PowerPoint presentation. No handouts were provided.

## **Threatened and Endangered Bat Issues of Corps on Engineers Projects**

### **Chester O. Martin, CEERDC-EL**

Bat conservation and management is an important issue on Federal lands throughout the United States. Of 45 species of bats documented to occur in the United States, seven species or subspecies are listed as threatened or endangered, and another 20 species or subspecies are considered to be species of concern. The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) are presently of primary concern on Corps projects, and several mid-western and eastern projects are involved in recovery plan actions for these species. Numerous other species are expected to occur on Corps lands, but few inventories have been conducted and information on existing planning and management efforts is sparse. Restoration and management actions that could be considered for bat conservation and habitat management at Corps projects include protection of maternity and wintering roost sites, riparian habitat restoration, selected timber stand management practices, snag management, provision of artificial roosts, appropriate water management, and restoration of foraging habitat. Research needs include identification of bat issues at Corps projects, evaluation of bat inventory methods, characterization of habitat features important to bats, and development of appropriate bat habitat restoration and management guidelines. Developing a proactive bat management program has the potential to save the Corps substantial funds by providing cost-effective procedures for conducting inventories and managing existing habitat to avoid restrictions imposed for threatened and endangered species.

Chester presented the subject matter via a PowerPoint presentation and had one handout titled: Threatened and Endangered Bat Issues on Corps of Engineers Projects.